

\*\*\*Please forward this information to your principals and school councils!



# KDE-mail

## SBDM Council News

**April 13, 2006**

Welcome!

### Division Director's Notes

This spring and summer, many school council members will make the most important and difficult decision faced by school councils—selecting a principal. Arthur Levin points out several changes needed in school leadership in his article “Effective Principals: Educating School Leaders,” published in the September 2005 edition of *The State Education Standard*. It may be important for school councils to discuss some of Levin’s ideas prior to beginning principal selection in light of the technological, economic, demographic and global changes that have transformed our schools.

Levin points out that the job of school leaders is “no longer one of school supervision, but leading in the redesign of their schools. It is moving schools from the past to the present. In an outcome-based and accountability-driven era, the principal’s job is leading school personnel to rethink their goals and priorities”.

Regardless of where the school falls on the accountability index, the school council should hold high standards for choosing a leader. School councils, led by an effective principal, can accomplish much in the area of student achievement.

Further clarification and information about laws pertaining to principal selection are available in the *Guidebook for Principal Selection*, which is located on the SBDM portion of the Department of Education’s Web site.

### SBDM Council Elections

Many SBDM councils are beginning the process of electing teachers and parents to represent students’ interests for the upcoming year. The most significant aspects of the SBDM electoral process are teachers electing teachers and parents electing parents to represent all children in the school.



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[SBDM Web page](#)

Teachers and parents should manage and direct the elections themselves. Principals should not be involved in the SBDM electoral process.

[KEA Web page](#)

Help and information about SBDM elections are available from the Kentucky Education Association (KEA) (for teachers) and the Kentucky PTA (for parents).

[KY PTA Web page](#)

## **Arts & Humanities Clarification**

### **From Phil Shepherd, Curriculum Development**

*As new minimum graduation requirements have been approved, it is important that school councils begin to make long-term plans to meet the needs of students.*

At its January meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approved new minimum graduation requirements set to begin with the graduating class of 2012 (Freshman Class of 2008). Part of the new requirements includes a change in the arts and humanities requirement. Upon implementation, the regulation will enable students to specialize in one or more art forms to fulfill the graduation requirements. However, the course fulfilling the requirement must be standards-based (using the *Program of Studies*), and the student must have the area of specialization included in an Individual Learning Plan.

## **Question of the Month**

**Q:** When must the superintendent distribute open records materials?

[KRS 160.395—  
Superintendent's Duty](#)

**A:** Amy Bensenhaver of the Office of the Attorney General says that the triggering event for distribution of open records materials is the election of a new member to a school board or a school council. Council members and board members that have previously signed the open records materials do not need to re-sign. KRS 160.395 speaks directly to the distribution of open records materials to newly elected school board and school council members. "Distribution to newly elected or appointed members shall be accomplished within sixty (60) days of their election or appointment. The distribution may be by electronic means."

[SBDM Web page](#)

Superintendents needing additional copies of the materials originally distributed by the Attorney General's office regarding HB 77 may obtain them from the SBDM Web page.



